

Representative

Beverly Woods

Republican Caucus Chair

Dear friends,

In spite of a massive financial deficit facing state government this year, I worked with Republicans and Democrats to adopt budgets that make salaries for beginning teachers more competitive, allow schools to reduce class sizes, and set a progressive school construction program in motion. Please take a few minutes to read this report on education legislation the Legislature approved, and education reforms under way in our state.

If you have questions or comments, don't hesitate to let me know. I always appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Beverly Woods

Beverly Woods



Committees:

Transportation
Capital Budget
Rules
Legislative Transportation Committee

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Legislative information on the Internet:

www.leg.wa.gov

State government on the Internet:

www.access.wa.gov

Beverly Woods

23rd District Representative

Smaller class sizes...



Better pay for beginning teachers...



Safer school buildings...



2003 Education Report

**Representative
Beverly Woods**
PO Box 40600
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Olympia, WA 98504-0600

2003 Education Report
23rd Legislative District

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My priorities as your legislator include growing jobs by making Washington a more in-

viting place for employers, protecting taxpayers by making government live within its means, and rebuilding the public's trust in state government. By taking steps to improve our schools without raising taxes, I believe we made progress on all three fronts.

On the preceding page:

It's my privilege to interact directly with several local students each legislative session by sponsoring them through the House of Representatives' page program. The preceding page shows a photo of Zach Padayao, who took a week out of his sophomore year at Central Kitsap High School to serve as a page. Zach was able to see the Legislature in action while delivering messages and documents to legislators. For more information on applying to be a page, please phone or e-mail my office.

Education organizations have told legislators often that wages for beginning teachers are too low to attract people to the teaching profession, and many young teachers are leaving the classroom early in their careers in favor of jobs that pay better.

To help balance the state's operating budget, the governor suggested suspending the pay raises for teachers granted under Initiative 732 (raises beyond the regular annual "step" increases available to them). The operating budget I supported, which became law, took the education community's concerns into account. It provides money to boost salaries for teachers with seven or fewer years' experience.

By next year, the average annual salary for a teacher in Washington will be nearly \$46,000. Every teacher will make at least \$30,000 per year. I believe this will help our districts attract and retain beginning teachers rather than lose them to other, higher-paying professions.

The budget I voted for also includes \$30 million more for class-size reductions (the goal of Initiative 728) than the governor requested. The per-pupil grant will equal \$254 per student, compared to the \$212 proposed by Gov. Locke.

Finally, as a member of the House Capital Budget Committee, I developed and helped negotiate the state's construction budget, allocating \$405 million for K-12 school construction. Besides better school facilities, this budget means construction jobs.

Investments like this will help our education system prepare to meet the high – and welcome – standards set in the No Child Left Behind Act passed by Congress in 2001.

WASL, EALRs, AYP: the language of reform

If you track your local school's performance or follow education reform issues, you'll see these program names and abbreviations sooner or later. Here's some information I pulled together from the state and federal education agencies that may help you sort things out:

Washington's Education Reform Act of 1993 established *Essential Academic Learning Requirements* (EALRs) that describe what all students should know and be able to do in eight content areas – reading, writing, communications, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, health and fitness.

The *Washington Assessment of Student Learning* (better known as the WASL) is one of the tools educators use to measure the progress of students in grades 4, 7 and 10 toward meeting the EALRs. The results from this past year's WASL were released at the end of August and are posted on the Internet (<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>).

The federal *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001 builds on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. It's intended to increase accountability for states, school districts, and schools; offer more choice to parents and students, particularly those attending low-performing schools; give more flexibility to states and local educational agencies in spending federal education dollars; and put more emphasis on reading.

The No Child Left Behind Act contains five goals, including:

- All students will reach high standards in reading/language arts and mathematics by 2013–2014. (Washington will use the WASL to determine proficiency). School districts and schools that fail to make *adequate yearly progress* (AYP) toward statewide proficiency goals in two consecutive years will be considered "in need of improvement." They will be required to take corrective actions to get back on course.
- By 2005–2006, all students will be taught by "highly qualified" teachers. Each state must set teacher quality-performance measures. The measures would ensure all core academic areas are being taught by teachers who meet the federal definition of "highly qualified."
- All students will graduate from high school.

Want to read more? Visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/> for state information and <http://www.ed.gov/> for federal information.

Join me for a Town Hall Meeting!

Saturday, November 8

10-11:30 a.m.
Poulsbo Fire Department
911 NE Liberty Road

2-3:30 p.m.
Silverdale Community Ctr.
9729 Silverdale Way NW

Employers Forum Friday, November 21

The 2003 legislative session brought important reforms to the state's unemployment insurance and workers' compensation systems. Join me for a forum with Paul Trause, director of the Department of Labor & Industries; Mary Clogston of the Employment Security Department; and Mark Johnson from the National Federation of Independent Business.

7:30-9:30 a.m.
Silverdale Community Ctr. (Evergreen Room)
9729 Silverdale Way NW